

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently amended): A process for controlling a vehicle drive-thru or drive-up facility, the process comprising:

~~Providing providing~~ a structural facility adapted to receive, store and deliver ~~commercial and high-volume~~ retail classified goods and serviceable items, the structural facility having a centralized order processing portion adapted to hold time-sensitive goods or services separately and a plurality of at least three access-controllable vehicle drive-thru pick up areas attached to the centralized processing portion adapted to receive a customer's vehicle; and

~~Introducing providing~~ at least one core computer system communicatively compatible with a customer and with other computers communicating with the core computer system, the core computer system adapted to transport pre-ordered goods or serviceable item to a final order assembly and consolidation area for later secure delivery to the customer, adapted to transport pre-ordered goods or serviceable items directly to a staging area for secure delivery to the customer control, access and deliver the classified goods and serviceable items from within and outside of the facility to a customer's location,

adapted to control and access the centralized order processing portion and adapted to control the plurality of drive-thru pick up areas for potential secure delivery of classified goods and serviceable items to a customer and for potential secure acceptance of items from a customer, the core computer system being further adapted to communicate with at least one electronic device controlled by the customer to automatically identify the customer's location and deliver approved ordered goods or services to the customer's location, the core computer system further being adapted to optimize and control vehicle traffic flow through the drive-thru pick up area.

Claim 45 (Original): The process according to Claim 44, wherein the vehicle drive-thru pick up area comprises a plurality of staging lanes to accommodate a plurality of customer vehicles, each staging lane being in communication with the core computer system to control traffic.

Claim 46 (Original): The process according to Claim 45, wherein the vehicle drive-thru pick up area further comprises at least one order placement and delivery station therein, the order placement and delivery station adapted to receive, process and deliver at least one order from a customer.

Claim 47 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, the order placement and delivery station further adapted to receive service items from a customer.

Claim 48 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, each order placement and delivery station adapted to receive communications from the customer by at least one electronic means, the electronic means in communication with the core computer system.

Claim 49 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 48, the electronic means adapted to communicate with a customer and with other computer systems through a communication means, the communication means selected from the group consisting of ~~including~~ by voice transmission, ~~by~~ voice synthesizer transmission, ~~by~~ audio transmission, ~~by~~ audio-visual transmission, ~~by~~ radio frequency transmission, ~~by~~ electronic signal transmission, ~~by~~ a touch screen; ~~including~~ by any type of wireless protocol comprising cellular, microwave, 802.11x, Bluetooth, satellite; and including ~~by~~ wirelan protocol comprising a telephone, a handheld devices, an onsite or offsite communication device, a point device, a touch device, a personal computer, or any combination thereof.

Claim 50 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 49, the electronic means further comprising a pre-ordering communication means, the pre-ordering communication means adapted to facilitate communications between the customer and any tenant, and between the customer and any computer network in communication with the core computer system, the pre-ordering communication means further adapted to provide pre-sale information to the customer, pricing, including time-sensitive coupon specials, discounts, close-outs and related pre-sales information, corresponding to the classified goods and serviceable items.

Claim 51 (Original): The process according to Claim 50, the pre-ordering communication means is further adapted to verify customer identification, verify order information and perform payment processing.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn).

Claim 53 (Withdrawn).

Claim 54 (Withdrawn).

Claim 55 (Withdrawn).

Claim 56 (Original): The process according to Claim 48 further comprising a verification system in communication with the core computer system, the verification system adapted to authenticate identification of the customer who is purchasing the ordered good or service, verify the customer's ability to purchase the ordered good or service, and if authentication and identification is confirmed, communicate to the core computer system to deliver the ordered good or service to the customer.

Claim 57 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 56, the verification system comprising a biometric verification system, the biometric verification system selected from the group consisting of fingerprint verification, eye pattern verification,

visual (face) identification verification, license scanning verification, voice verification, vehicle identification verification and, non-invasive cell scan verification.

Claim 58 (Withdrawn).

Claim 59 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for receiving customer exchanged goods, receiving damaged goods, receiving mis-processed goods, processing special handle goods and providing refunds if necessary, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 60 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer service, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 61 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer assistance, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 62 (Original): The process according to Claim 46 wherein the faculty further comprises a pre-defined food pick up area within the drive-thru pick up area, the prepared food pick up area adapted to deliver food pre-ordered by a customer.

Claim 63 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the facility further comprises at least one pre-defined area for receiving, storing and transporting goods and services which require predefined environmental controls.

Claim 64 (Previously presented): The process according to Claim 63, wherein environmental controls are selected from the group consisting of humidity controls, product rotation controls, expiration controls, heat controls, refrigeration controls, ambient temperature controls, dry goods handling controls, special handling controls, packaging controls, secure access controls, consolidation and bagging controls and air circulation controls.

Claim 65 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the core computer system is adapted to monitor or otherwise sense emissions from a vehicle within or adjacent to the facility, and control one or more exhaust control systems in the facility to vent away the emissions from the facility.

Claim 66 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing structure specializing in providing wholesale goods or services.

Claim 67 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing strip center.

Claim 68 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing box store structure.

Claim 69 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing outdoor mall structure.

Claim 70 (Original): The process according to Claim 46, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing indoor mall structure.

Claim 71 (Original): The process according to Claim 45, wherein the vehicle drive-thru pick up area further comprises at least one order placement station and at least one delivery station therein, the order placement station and the order delivery station adapted to receive, process and deliver at least one order from a customer.

Claim 72 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, the order placement and delivery station further adapted to receive service items from a customer.

Claim 73 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, each order placement and delivery station adapted to receive communications from the customer by at least one electronic means, the electronic means in communication with the core computer system.

Claim 74 (Original): The process according to Claim 73, the electronic means adapted to communicate with a customer and with other computer systems by voice transmission, by voice synthesizer transmission, by audio transmission, by audio-visual transmission, by radio frequency transmission, by electronic signal transmission, by a touch screen; including by any type of wireless protocol comprising cellular, microwave, 802.11x, Bluetooth, satellite; and including by wirelan protocol comprising a telephone, a handheld devices, an onsite or offsite communication device, a point device, a touch device, a personal computer or any combination thereof.

Claim 75 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 74, the electronic means further comprising a pre-ordering communication means, the pre-ordering communication means adapted to facilitate communications between the customer and any tenant, and between the customer and any computer network in communication with the core computer system, the pre-ordering communication means further adapted to provide pre-sale information to the customer, pricing, including time-sensitive coupon specials, discounts, close-outs and related pre-sales information, corresponding to the classified goods and serviceable items.

Claim 76 (Original): The process according to Claim 75, the pre-ordering communication means is further adapted to verify customer identification, verify order information and perform payment processing.

Claim 77 (Withdrawn).

Claim 78 (Withdrawn).

Claim 79 (Original): The process according to Claim 77, the pre-ordering communication means comprising a remotely located computer device adapted to provide communications to a remotely located customer, the computer device adapted to receive and store customer information, customer preferred product information, and past customer order information, and is further adapted to track discarded goods, track inventory for replenishment, generate future order information, and upon command by the customer, replenish goods by communicating at least one order to the core computer system for subsequent delivery to the customer.

Claim 80 (Original): The process according to Claim 79 wherein the core computer system is adapted to deliver ordered goods or services to a customer's location.

Claim 81 (Original): The process according to Claim 73 further comprising a verification system in communication with the core computer system, the verification system adapted to authenticate identification of the customer who is purchasing the ordered good or service, verify the customer's ability to purchase the ordered good or service, and if authentication and identification is confirmed, communicate to the core computer system to deliver the ordered good or service to the customer.

Claim 82 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 81, the verification system comprising a biometric verification system, the biometric verification system selected from the group consisting of fingerprint verification, eye pattern verification, visual (face) identification verification, license scanning verification, voice verification, vehicle identification verification and, non-invasive cell scan verification.

Claim 83 (Withdrawn).

Claim 84 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for receiving customer exchanged goods, receiving damaged goods, receiving mis-processed goods, processing special handle goods and providing refunds if necessary, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 85 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer service, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 86 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer assistance, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 87 (Original): The process according to Claim 71 wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined food pick up area within the drive-thru pick up area, the prepared food pick up area adapted to deliver food pre-ordered by a customer.

Claim 88 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the facility further comprises at least one pre-defined area for receiving, storing and transporting goods and services which require predefined environmental controls.

Claim 89 (Previously presented): The process according to Claim 88, wherein environmental controls are selected from the group consisting of humidity controls, product rotation controls, expiration controls, heat controls, refrigeration controls, ambient temperature controls, dry goods handling controls, special handling controls, packaging controls, secure access controls, consolidation and bagging controls and air circulation controls.

Claim 90 (Withdrawn).

Claim 91 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing structure specializing in providing wholesale goods or services.

Claim 92 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing strip center.

Claim 93 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing box store structure.

Claim 94 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing outdoor mall structure.

Claim 95 (Original): The process according to Claim 71, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing indoor mall structure.

Claim 96 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 44, wherein the step of introducing providing a core computer system further comprises the steps of allowing the core computer system to:

direct a customer to an ordering placement station;

receive communications from, and transmit communications to, the customer through an electronic means corresponding to an ordered classified good or serviceable item, the electronic means being in communication with the core computer system;

obtain remuneration from the customer;

control and operate a materials handling system to obtain the ordered good or serviceable item from within a pre-defined portion of the facility, and transport the ordered good or serviceable item to an order assembly and consolidation area

within the facility;
direct the customer to an order delivery station;
if a customer is not waiting for delivery, transport the ordered goods or serviceable item to a staging area for later delivery; and
if a customer is waiting for delivery, transport the ordered goods or serviceable item to the customer to a pre-selected delivery station.

Claim 97 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 96, the electronic means adapted to communicate with a customer and with other computer systems through a communication means, the communication means selected from the group consisting of ~~including~~ by voice transmission, by voice synthesizer transmission, by audio transmission, by audio-visual transmission, by radio frequency transmission, by electronic signal transmission, by a touch screen; ~~including~~ by any type of wireless protocol comprising cellular, microwave, 802.11x, Bluetooth, satellite; and including by wirelan protocol comprising a telephone, a handheld devices, an onsite or offsite communication device, a point device, a touch device, a personal computer, or any combination thereof.

Claim 98 (Original): The process according to Claim 97 further comprising the steps of allowing the core computer system to:

verify that the ordered good or serviceable item is available; and
transmit order information to at least one tenant within the facility.

Claim 99 (Currently amended): A method for managing a facility offering classified goods and serviceable items by at least one core computer system, the facility containing a plurality of vehicle drive-thru areas, the steps method comprising the core computer:

selectively allowing the customer to communicate with one or more good or service providers through an audio/video network over the ordering device;

directing a customer vehicle to an access-controllable order station through a traffic control system in communication with the core computer;

~~receiving the customer's order information through an electronic means;~~

~~communicating the customer's historical order data through the electronic means;~~

~~receiving payment from the customer corresponding to the order;~~

verifying and processing the order;

communicating with an ordering device to obtain the customer's order or perishable goods, non-perishable goods or serviceable items, the ordering device being adapted to identify to the customer all goods and serviceable items available at the facility, to identify the customer's historical customer purchase information, to track the customer's personal inventory data, to maintain the customer's personal inventory data for selective replenishment, and to receive payment for the order;

based on the order, selectively obtaining and storing perishable goods in one or more first predefined areas;

based on the order, selectively obtaining and storing non-perishable goods in one or more second predefined areas;

based on the order, obtaining and selectively storing serviceable items in one or more third predefined areas;

selectively controlling the first predefined areas, the second predefined areas and the third predefined areas to obtain the perishable goods, non-perishable goods or the serviceable items ordered by the customer and deliver the perishable goods, non-perishable goods or the serviceable items to the customer to a delivery station; and

directing the customer to a the delivery station for order delivery of the perishable goods, non-perishable goods or serviceable items;

the core computer system being further adapted to optimize vehicle traffic flow through the order station and the delivery station.

Claim 100 (Original): The method of Claim 99 wherein the step of processing the order further comprises the steps of:

Notifying the customer of the inventory status;

Controlling a materials handling system to obtain the ordered good or serviceable item from within a pre-defined portion of the facility, and transport the ordered good or serviceable item to an order assembly and consolidation area within the facility;

Communicating any order information to a corresponding tenant's computer processing system;

Transmitting corresponding financial information to the corresponding tenant's computer processing system;

confirming that the order corresponds to the customer who placed the order; if a customer is not waiting for delivery, controlling the materials handling system to transport the ordered goods or serviceable item to a staging area for later delivery to the customer to a pre-selected delivery station; and if a customer is waiting for delivery, controlling the materials handling system to transport the ordered goods or serviceable item to the customer to a pre-selected delivery station.

Claim 101 (Original): The method of Claim 99 wherein the electronic means communicates with the customer by voice transmission, by voice synthesizer transmission, by audio transmission, by audio-visual transmission, by radio frequency transmission, by electronic signal transmission, by a touch screen; including by any type of wireless protocol comprising cellular, microwave, 802.11x, Bluetooth, satellite; and including by wirelan protocol comprising a telephone, a handheld devices, an onsite or offsite communication device, a point device, a touch device, or a computer;

Claim 102 (Original): The method of Claim 100 wherein the pre-defined portion of the facility comprises at least an area storing high customer demand classified goods or serviceable items, an area storing frequently purchased classified goods or serviceable items and an area storing remaining classified goods or serviceable items, these areas in communication with the core computer system through the materials handling system.

Claim 103 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 99, the electronic means further comprising a pre-ordering communication means, the pre-ordering communication means adapted to facilitate communications between the customer and any tenant, and between the customer and any computer network in communication with the core computer system, the pre-ordering communication means further adapted to provide pre-sale information to the customer, pricing, including time-sensitive coupon specials, discounts, close-outs and related pre-sales information, corresponding to the classified goods and serviceable items.

Claim 104 (Original): The process according to Claim 103, the pre-ordering communication means is further adapted to verify customer identification, verify order information and perform payment processing.

Claim 105 (Withdrawn).

Claim 106 (Withdrawn).

Claim 107 (Withdrawn).

Claim 108 (Withdrawn).

Claim 109 (Original): The process according to Claim 100 further comprising a verification system in communication with the core computer system, the verification

system adapted to authenticate identification of the customer who is purchasing the ordered good or service, verify the customer's ability to purchase the ordered good or service, and if authentication and identification is confirmed, communicate to the core computer system to deliver the ordered good or service to the customer.

Claim 110 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 109, the verification system comprising a biometric verification system, the biometric verification system selected from the group consisting of fingerprint verification, eye pattern verification, visual (face) identification verification, license scanning verification, voice verification, vehicle identification verification and, non-invasive cell scan verification.

Claim 111 (Withdrawn).

Claim 112 (Original): The process according to Claim 100, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for receiving customer exchanged goods, receiving damaged goods, receiving mis-processed goods, processing special handle goods and providing refunds if necessary, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 113 (Original): The process according to Claim 100, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer service, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 114 (Original): The process according to Claim 100, wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined area for customer assistance, the pre-defined area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system.

Claim 115 (Original): The process according to Claim 100 wherein the facility further comprises a pre-defined food pick up area within the drive-thru pick up area, the prepared food pick up area adapted to deliver food pre-ordered by a customer.

Claim 116 (Original): The process according to Claim 100, wherein the facility further comprises at least one pre-defined area for receiving, storing and transporting goods and services which require predefined environmental controls.

Claim 117 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 116, wherein environmental controls are selected from the group consisting of humidity controls, product rotation controls, expiration controls, heat controls, refrigeration controls, ambient temperature controls, dry goods handling controls, special handling controls, packaging controls, secure access controls, consolidation and bagging controls and air circulation controls.

Claim 118 (Withdrawn).

Claim 119 (Original): The process according to Claim 99, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing structure specializing in providing wholesale goods or services.

Claim 120 (Original): The process according to Claim 99, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing strip center.

Claim 121 (Original): The process according to Claim 99, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing box store structure.

Claim 122 (Original): The process according to Claim 99, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing outdoor mall structure.

Claim 123 (Original): The process according to Claim 99, wherein the structural facility is adapted to annex to, or otherwise structurally couple to, an existing indoor mall structure.

Claim 124 (Currently amended): A method for managing a facility offering orderable goods or serviceable items through at least one network by at least one core computer system, the steps comprising:

the core computer system communicating with an ordering device through the network to obtain the customer's order, the ordering device being adapted

to identify to the customer all goods and services available at the facility,
and to receive payment for the order;
~~the core computer system receiving the customer's order information from the~~
~~network via at least one remote communication means;~~
the core computer system verifying and processing the order;
the core computer directing the assembling of the customer's order in one or more
time-sensitive areas in order to maximize order picking throughput; and
placing the order in a staging area to await customer arrival and pick-up; and
directing the customer to a delivery station for order delivery, the core computer
system being further adapted to optimize vehicle traffic flow through the
order station and the delivery station.

Claim 125 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 124 wherein the structural facility is adapted to having a at least one vehicle drive-thru pick up area located adjacent to the facility and which is adapted to receive a customer's vehicle.

Claim 126 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 124 wherein the core computer is adapted to control each drive-thru pick up areas for delivery of ordered goods or serviceable items to a customer.

Claim 127 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 124, the communication means being adapted to communicate with a customer and with other computer systems by voice transmission, by voice synthesizer transmission, by audio transmission, by audio-

visual transmission, by radio frequency transmission, by electronic signal transmission, by a touch screen; including by any type of wireless protocol comprising cellular, microwave, 802.11x, Bluetooth, satellite; and including by wirelan protocol comprising a telephone, a handheld devices, a personal digital assistant, an onsite or offsite communication device, a point device, a touch device, a personal computer or any combination thereof.

Claim 128 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 127, the communication means further comprising a pre-ordering communication means, the pre-ordering communication means adapted to facilitate communications between the customer and the facility, and between the customer and any computer network in communication with the core computer system, the pre-ordering communication means further adapted to provide pre-sale information to the customer, pricing, including time-sensitive coupon specials, discounts, close-outs and related pre-sales information, corresponding to the orderable goods or serviceable items, the pre-ordering communication means further being adapted to notify the customer that the orderable goods or serviceable items are available for delivery.

Claim 129 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 128, the pre-ordering communication means being adapted to verify customer identification, verify order information and perform payment processing.

Claim 130 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 129, the pre-ordering communication means further being adapted to track, store and evaluate customer ordering trends for future customer orders.

Claim 131 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 130, the pre-ordering communication means comprising a remotely located computer device adapted to provide communications relating to the orderable goods or serviceable items to a remotely located customer.

Claim 132 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 131 further comprising a pre-defined order pick up area, the order pick up area being in communication with the core computer system through a materials handling system, the materials handling system being adapted to retrieve ordered goods or serviceable items from the facility.

Claim 133 (New): The method of Claim 124 further comprising the step of allowing the core computer system to communicate with at least one tenant's computer system to collectively obtain one or more customer orders, to collectively store each customer's orders, and to collectively deliver the customer's orders to a customer at a predefined delivery station.

Claim 134 (New): The process of Claim 44 further comprising the step of allowing the core computer system to communicate with at least one tenant's computer system to collectively obtain one or more customer orders at a tenant's location, to collectively

store each customer's orders, and to collectively deliver the customer's orders to a customer at a predefined delivery station.

Claim 135 (New): The process of Claim 44 further comprising the step of allowing the core computer system to control and maintain inventory data, the core computer further being adapted to process inventory data and place orders to replenish inventory.

Claim 136 (New): The process of Claim 124 further comprising the step of allowing the core computer system to control and maintain inventory data, the core computer further being adapted to process inventory data and place orders to replenish inventory.